

Sinclair's decision to force stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, an issue repeatedly put before the FCC.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's decision to smear for Bush goes against the public interest and debases the notion of fair and unbiased reporting.

Sinclair's actions exemplify what the public has been telling the FCC all along: we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. His actions also show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Better a report card of the station and a failing grade for non-compliance.

Thank you.